

In the Claims

1.(currently amended) A system for protecting an article comprising the steps of affixing an electronic tag to the article characteristic of the article, said tag including a wireless transceiver for communication over a communications network, a GPS receiver for receiving location related information from a global positioning system, a microprocessor for performing on board calculations and transferring data from said GPS receiver to said transceiver and firmware in said microprocessor for processing instructions for operation of said transceiver, said GPS receiver and said microprocessor and for communicating with the communications network; and delivering an electronic signal from a remote location via a global positioning system to said transceiver on the article to activate said tag to receive location related information from the global positioning system and to emit a signal directly from said GPS receiver indicative of the location of the article to said remote location. [;and determining the geographic location of the article from a return signal from the global positioning system.]

2. (currently amended) A system as set forth in claim 1 further comprising the steps of providing a FLASH memory within said electronic tag for tracking the location of the article over a period of time and delivering corresponding information from said firmware to said remote location [and displaying] to display the path of travel of the article over time on a map at said remote location.

3. (currently amended) A system as set forth in claim 1 further comprising the steps of providing a motion detector in said electronic tag for detecting motion of the article and establishing an electronic geographic boundary area about the article and emitting

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a signal from said tag [on the article] in response to the article passing beyond said boundary.

4. (original) A system as set forth in claim 3 further comprising the step of employing said emitted signal from said tag to disable movement of the article upon passing from said geographic boundary area.

5. (currently amended) An electronic tag for affixing to an article comprising  
a wireless transceiver and antenna to communicate over a communications network [and to receive information from a GPS];  
a GPS receiver for receiving location related information from a Global Positioning System;

a microprocessor for performing on board calculations and transferring data from said GPS receiver to said transceiver [to transfer data strings from a GPS to said transceiver]; and

[having] firmware in said microprocessor for processing instructions for operation of said transceiver, said GPS receiver and said microprocessor and for communicating with the communications network. [; and

a motion detector for sensing motion of the article].

6. (currently amended) An electronic tag as set forth in claim 5 further comprising a motion detector for sensing motion of the article and a flash memory in said firmware for storing a running log of where the article has traveled.

7. (original) An electronic tag as set forth in claim 5 further comprising a battery for continued operation, a power monitor for detecting the presence of external power and a port for connection to an external computer.

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8. (new) An electronic tag as set forth in claim 5 wherein said microprocessor is a Rabbit 3000 series processor having said firmware therein.

9. (new) An asset management and protection system comprising  
a PADworks software component containing an inventory of disparate articles  
and a LOCATE function to locate a selected article of said inventory; and  
a plurality of PADtag components, each said PADtag component containing  
information characteristic of a selected article of said inventory and affixed to said  
selected article, each said PADtag including a wireless transceiver for communication  
over a communications network with said PADworks software component, a GPS  
receiver for receiving location related information from a global positioning system, a  
microprocessor for performing on board calculations and transferring data from said  
GPS receiver to said transceiver and firmware in said microprocessor for processing  
instructions for operation of said transceiver, said GPS receiver and said  
microprocessor and for communicating with said PADworks software component over  
the communications network.

10. (new) A system as set forth in claim 9 wherein said PADworks software  
component has a HISTORY function to record a time sequence of the movement of a  
selected article and said PADtag includes a FLASH memory for tracking the location of  
the article over a period of time and delivering corresponding information to said  
PADworks software component to display the path of travel of the article over time on a  
map.

11. (new) A system as set forth in claim 9 wherein said microprocessor is a Rabbit  
3000 series processor.

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12. (new) A system as set forth in claim 9 wherein said firmware has a plurality of ALERTS for monitoring a plurality of events and emitting a responsive signal through said transceiver indicative of the occurrence of at least one of said events.

13. (new) A system as set forth in claim 12 wherein said firmware has a plurality of timers, each said timer being connected with a respective one of said ALERTS to be set thereby in response to an output from said respective ALERT, each said timer being programmed to effect transmission of a signal from said PADtag to said PADworks software component over the communications network indicative of the respective ALERT.

14. (new) A system as set forth in claim 13 wherein said respective ALERT is an ALERT\_PERIMETER\_ENTER for indicating when an article enters a preset perimeter.

15. (new) A system as set forth in claim 13 wherein said respective ALERT is an ALERT\_PERIMETER\_EXIT for indicating when an article exits a geographic perimeter.

16. (new) A system as set forth in claim 13 wherein said respective ALERT is an ALERT\_SPEED for indicating when an article exceeds a preset speed.

17. (new) A system as set forth in claim 13 wherein said respective ALERT is an ALERT\_ODOMETER for indicating when an odometer on the article exceeds a preset value.

18. (new) A system as set forth in claim 13 wherein said respective ALERT is an ALERT\_TRIPMETER for indicating when a trip meter on the article exceeds a preset value.

19 (new) A system as set forth in claim 9 wherein said firmware has a PADfence algorithm for sensing at least one of movement of a selected article over a predetermined speed limit, movement of a selected article from a predetermined

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position and movement of a selected article beyond the boundary of a predetermined geographic area.